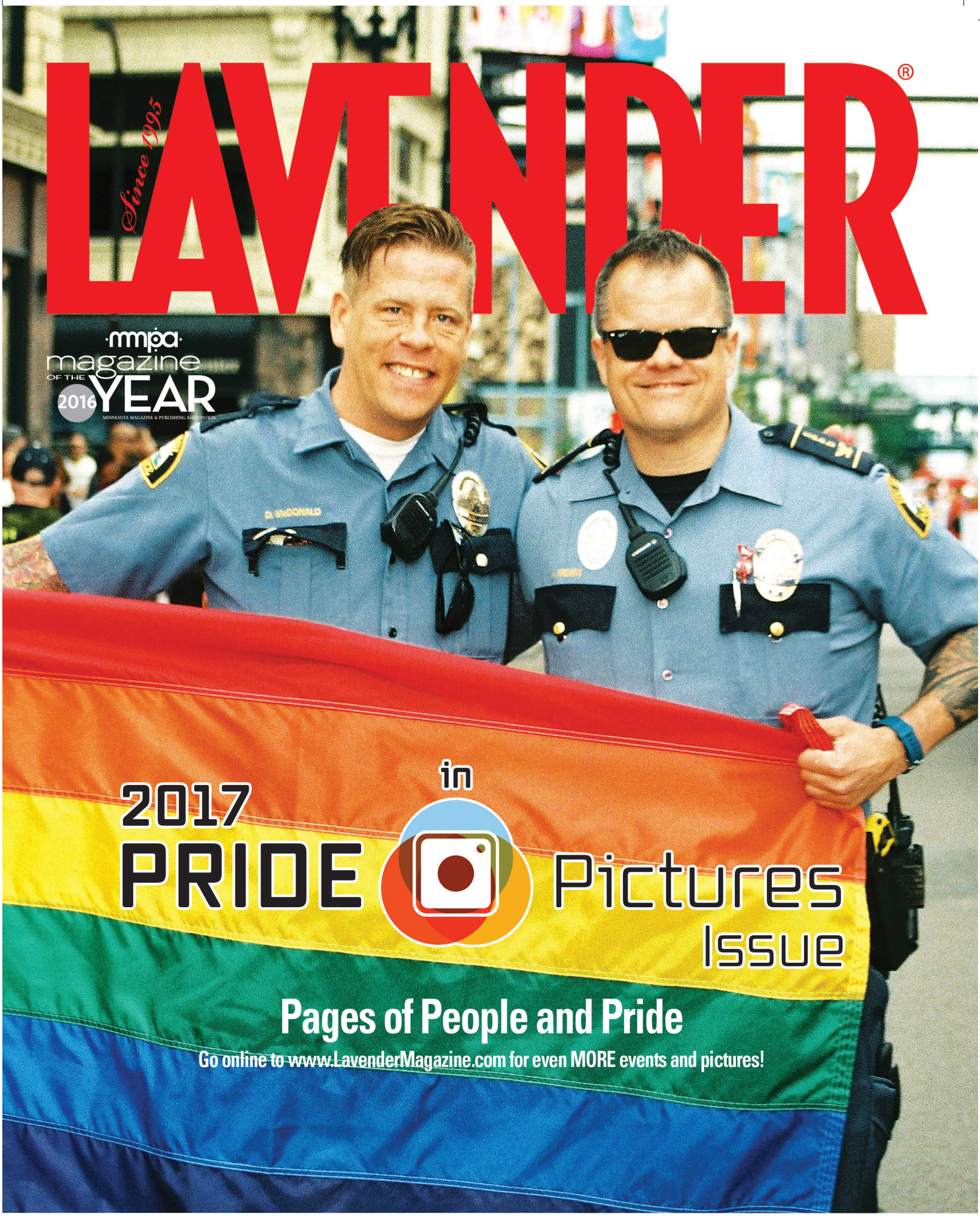


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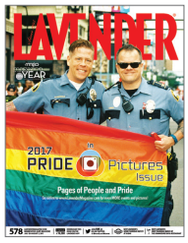
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This issue is full of Pride-ful people in our community—be sure to go online and find more events and photos at www.lavendermagazine.com.
Photo by Sophia Hantzes

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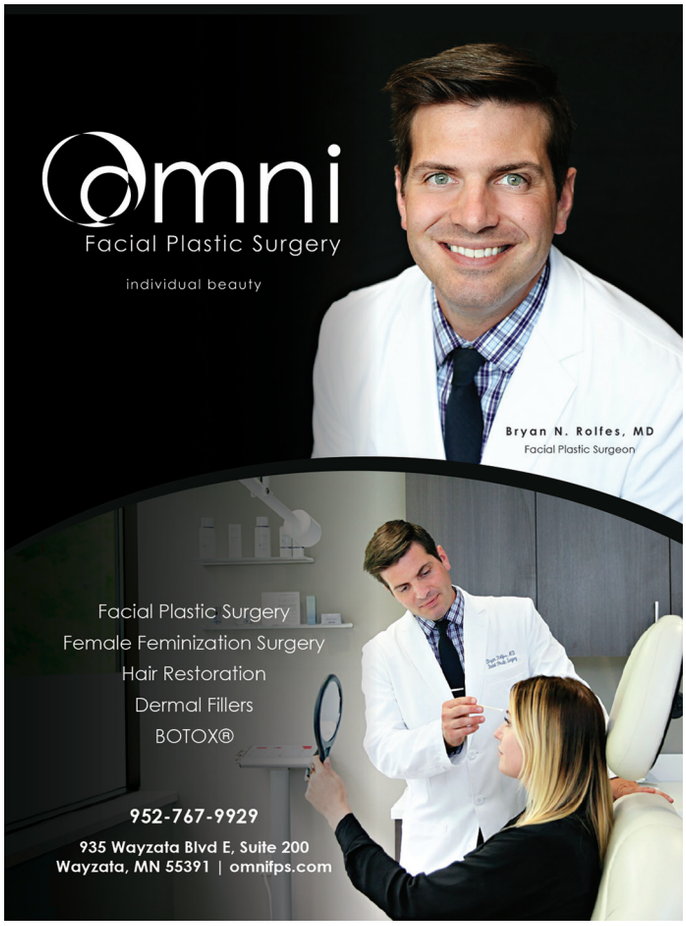
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BY JOHN TOWNSEND

Twin Cities Pride Committee Mum On Details Regarding Police Ban Decision While A Gay Officer Speaks Out

The Twin Cities Pride Committee's decision to ban police officers from the June 25 Pride Parade was rescinded, but it left many people upset, scratching their heads and asking serious questions. Pride Committee Executive Director Dot Beltsler did not grant an interview request, nor would she answer written questions posed by this Lavender reporter. She was approached after the ban was announced and after the ban was rescinded. Those questions regarded specifics about how the original ban decision was actually arrived at. Beltsler was contacted to comment for Lavender a total of five times over a period of five days.

What we do know is that Pride Twin Cities, which is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit corporation, wanted to show that they stood in solidarity with some communities of color. The committee's justification for the ban was motivated by a recent verdict in which Latino police officer, Jeronimo Yanez, was not convicted of the murder of African American, Philando Castile, during a traffic stop. The death occurred in Ramsey County last year. The Pride Festival is held annually in Hennepin County.

The backlash within the regional GLBT community against the Pride Committee's ban was visceral and an embarrassment to many GLBT citizens who simply want to fit in with, rather than rage against, American social norms as predicated by the Pride Committee. The relations between Twin Cities metro area police departments and the GLBT community have improved exponentially since the 1970s, thanks to diligence between GLBT citizens, businesses, politicians of both major parties, and the public in general. Minneapolis Police Chief, Janee Harteau, a Native American gay woman, had not been consulted by the Pride Committee about the ban. Ironically, Harteau is renown for her ability to bring different people and communities together despite hard divisions.

The population in general, beyond the GLBT community and including GLBT straight supporters, was also largely at odds with the deci-

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sion. The original Pride Committee post emitted what could easily be interpreted as a shaming and sternly authoritative tone. An example of this was one sentence which read, "There will be just one lone unmarked police car starting out the parade and there will be limited police participation in the parade itself."

Before the ban was lifted, metro area Police Captain Tom Hawley, a gay man, did however agree to be interviewed. Like many, he was puzzled, stating that "the unanimous decision in a Ramsey County courtroom by the officer's peers—African-American, Caucasian, male, female—that he was not guilty of the crimes he was charged with, has nothing to do with the gay pride celebration, and the fact that some with a political agenda are hijacking this event is appalling to me."

The Captain continued, "The Pride Committee's own website talked about inclusion, but then they decide to exclude a group of people. They are painting a group with a broad brush, which is something they supposedly are opposed to. They are making the same mistake that large numbers of people used to do with African Americans and gays—painting them with a broad brush and discriminating against them at the same time."

He went on to describe the Pride Committee's ban decision as "offensive and deeply disappointing. Now for the first time as a gay man I feel unwelcome at a gay pride event. Sad. Those who made this decision should be ashamed of themselves."

However, what was just as disconcerting, not just to Hawley, but to others inside and outside the GLBT community, was the committee's way of thinking in arriving at the ban decision. Before it was rescinded they said, as Hawley pointed out, that "cops are invited back but only under certain conditions. They must carry a particular type of flag or march with somebody carrying one of those flags and they have continued to ban all marked police vehicles. They are retaliating against and penalizing law enforcement for a recent court decision in Ramsey County that has nothing to do with celebrating gay Pride. Instead of promoting inclusion like they claim to do, they would rather exclude an entire group of people, something I find insulting and shocking."

Nationally other Pride organizers also asserted similar dictates. Portland, OR police officers were asked not to wear their uniforms. Charlotte, NC's Pride forbade a pro-Trump float to participate in their parade. The Chicago Dyke March asked three persons carrying Jewish flags to leave. ■

in PRIDE Pictures

Photos by Sophia Hantzes

LAVENDER'S SUMMER OF PRIDE KICK-OFF PARTY AT THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

June 1



































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June 11
















TWIN CITIES PRIDE FAMILY PICNIC

June 18














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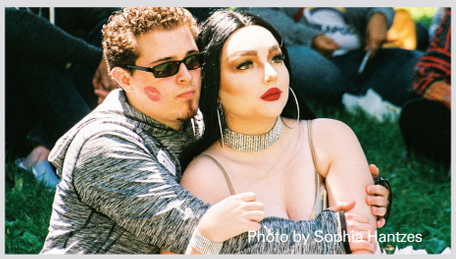


TWIN CITIES PRIDE FESTIVAL

June 24 & 25

































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TWIN CITIES PRIDE IN CONCERT

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TWIN CITIES PRIDE RAINBOW RUN

June 25





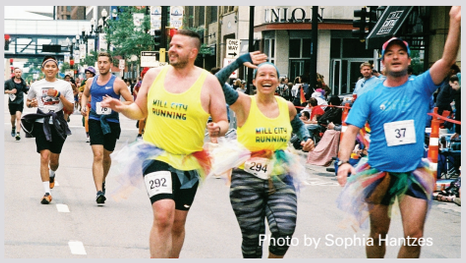














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ASHLEY RUKES PRIDE PARADE

June 25

















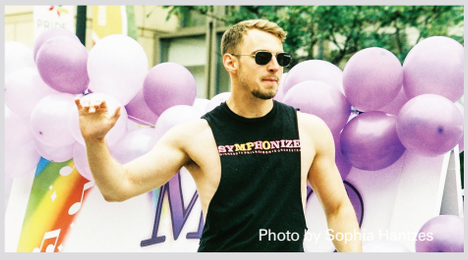


















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What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**
  - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
  - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
  - Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
  - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
  - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
  - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.** If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **Also take** certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- **Too much lactic acid in your blood** (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

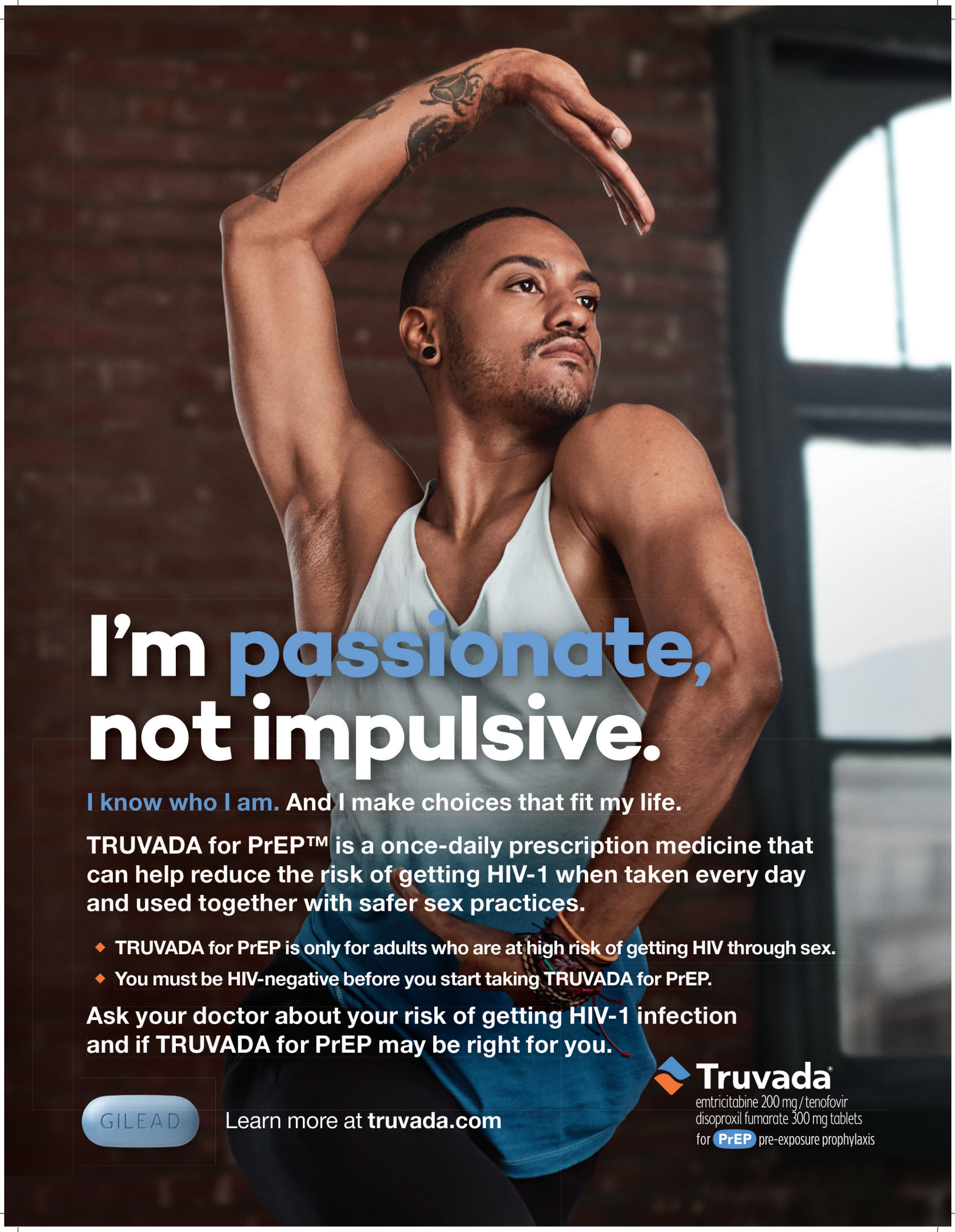
Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

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IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP™ (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the "How To Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day**, not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.

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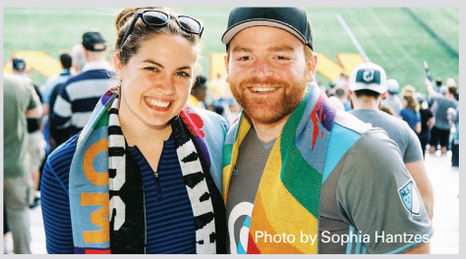
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May 27

















MINNESOTA LYNX PRIDE NIGHT

June 17















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QUEER PROM

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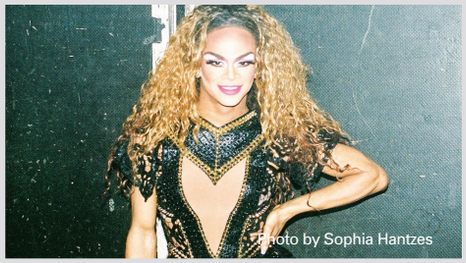




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PRIDE DANCE AT THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

June 24



















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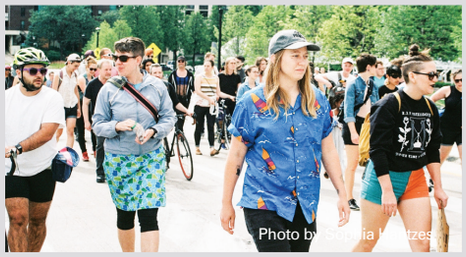
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MINNESOTA LEATHER PRIDE

June 23-25


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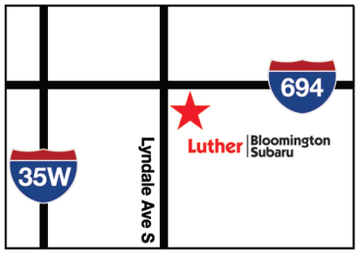
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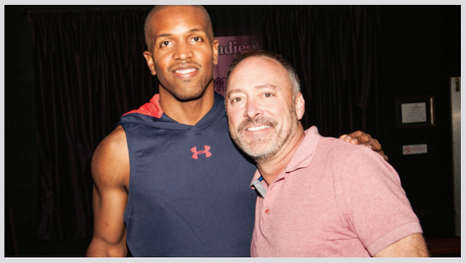












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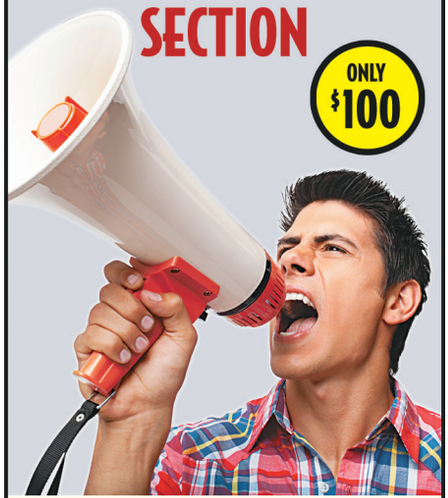





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PRIDE AT THE TOWN HOUSE

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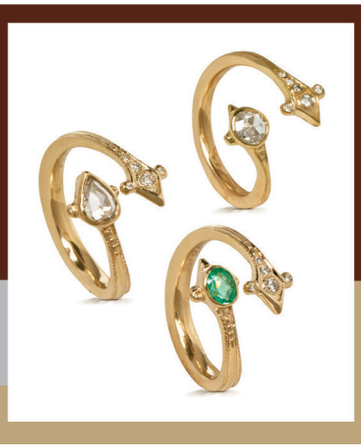




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THE SALOON'S PRIDE BLOCK PARTY

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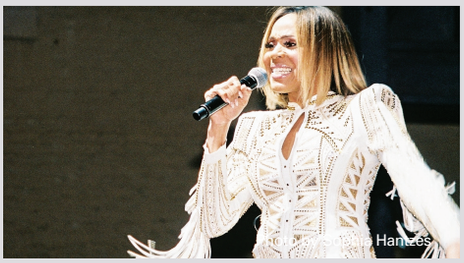








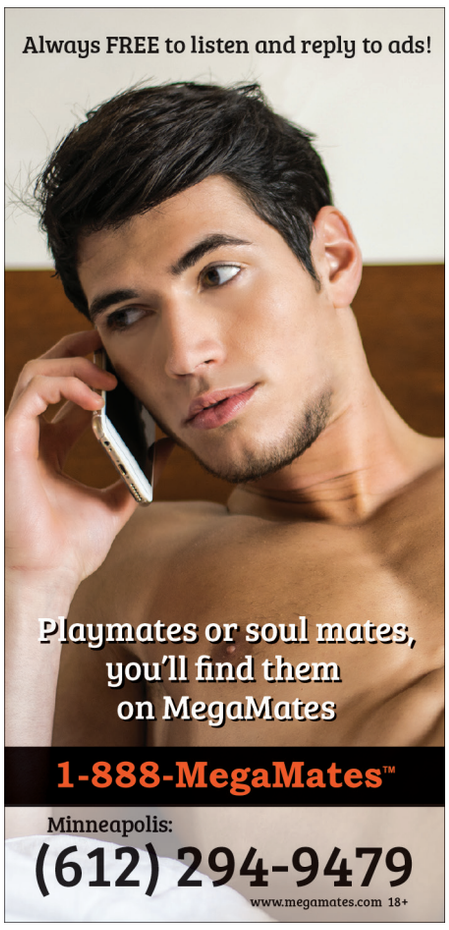








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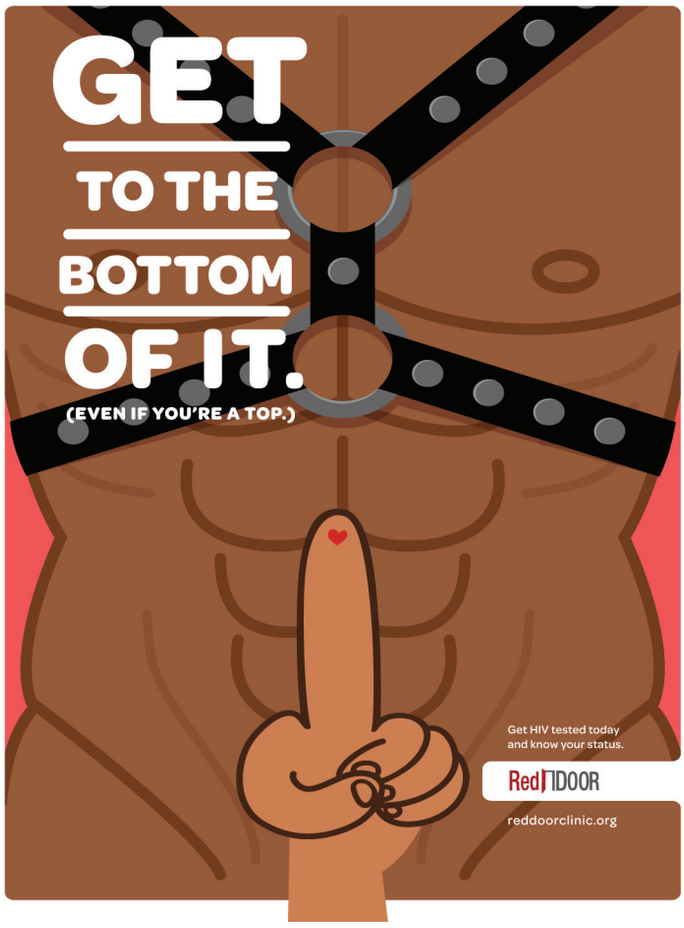
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